

SENATOR VISIT

Osmeck visits Mound to talk water

Page 8



MAKING A SPLASH

Spartans swimmers win conference

Page 19



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HEALTHY HARVEST

HARVEST BETTER THAN EXPECTED FOLLOWING SUMMER DROUGHT, **PAGE 2**



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The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a cold and snowy winter for Minnesota.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

SEE PAGES 21-22



INDEX

Opinion pgs. 4-5
Calendar pg. 6
Sports pgs. 19-21
Classifieds pgs. 23-28

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Harvest better than expected after drought

BY AL LOHMAN
al.lohman@apgecm.com

It's been a year that had area farmers holding their collective breaths.

That's how Colleen Carlson, agricultural extension educator for Carver and Scott counties, describes the recent growing season as the fall harvest nears an end.

Despite what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Twin Cities office reports as the most extreme drought conditions in Minnesota in the last 30 years, crop yields are looking fairly good across Carver County, according to Carlson and other area agronomists.

The rains that fell here were timely, and favorable fall weather has enabled farmers to bring in the harvest slightly ahead of the historical average schedule. About 70 percent of corn and nearly 95 percent of soybeans had been harvested as of last week, according to crop reports.

Meanwhile, soybean yields have been "phenomenal" while corn has been "better than anticipated," notes Bill Reimers, general manager of Mid-County Coop in Cologne serving agricultural and other customers



A corn harvest is underway east of Waconia. (Al Lohman/The Patriot)

in Carver County.

The oat crop earlier this year was another story, Carlson indicates, with low yields and farmers using oats for straw instead of a cash crop.

While Carver County crop yields were decent overall, other counties to the north and southwest did not fare so well as severe drought conditions persist. Many dairy and produce farms were ravaged. The U.S. Department of Agriculture expects Minnesota to see a 13-bushel-per-acre decrease in corn yield overall from 2020, and the federal government will send about \$17 million to the state for disaster mitigation.

As the fastest growing county in the state, more and more of Carver County farmland is being turned into housing developments and pavement, yet there still are close to 160,000 acres here in agricultural production. Not just cash crops, but also fresh fruits and vegetables.

It also turned out to be a good year for pumpkin and squash growers and other fresh produce, Carlson reports, while apples were a mixed bag due to the drought, with some varieties doing well and others on the small side. The CSA market, or community-supported agriculture, also was strong as

the pandemic with its restricted movement seemed to open up alternative local markets for fresh fruit and vegetables. CSA is a kind of crop sharing system that connects producers and consumers more closely by enabling the consumer to subscribe to the harvest of a certain farm or group of farms.

It was also a lingering growing season, with no frost until later October, and no real hard freezes until the past week.

Meanwhile, the lack of rain aided crops drying in the fields, which saves farmers from spending as much money on propane to fuel their grain dryers, Reimers explains.

Also in farmers' favor is that grain market prices are at their highest levels in many years, according to ag financial reports.

On the other hand, the U.S. average diesel fuel price for the week ending Oct. 25 increased by 4.2 cents from the previous week to \$3.713 per gallon, \$1.33 above the same week last year or a 36 percent increase from 2020.

That affects the cost of trips across the field, delivery prices of commodities, cost of manufacturing and delivery of fertilizer, Carlson notes.

In fact, farmers this year weren't just holding their breath about weather, but also fertilizers and chemicals for crops, which were in short supply and at double to triple normal prices because of supply chain issues that have been plaguing other markets as well.

But at least there are signs the drought that started last fall is easing as more steady rainfalls and less evaporation with the arrival of cooler temperatures this fall start to make a dent. Meanwhile, Carlson notes the steady rain that fell here for two days last week will help replenish much needed soil moisture as farmers look ahead to next spring.

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Dane Vocelka opened The Harbor Tattoo Studio at Mound's Lost Lake complex in August this year. Vocelka, an avid fisherman, also makes custom fishing rods and offers fishing guide services. Vocelka said he's looking to change the perception of what "tattoo studio" means. (Elizabeth Hustad/Laker Pioneer and submitted)

Tattoo studio opens in Mound, with an angler flair

BY ELIZABETH HUSTAD
laker@apgecm.com

Dane Vocelka has found his niche in the rods and needles of two disparate businesses that, as it turns out, work quite well together: custom fishing equipment and tattooing.

Vocelka, who now lives in Buffalo, caught his first bass at age 5 and inked his first tattoo—the kanji for “patience” on his own left knee—while still in college in Duluth.

He’s fished many a tournament and worked at many a studio, both up north and in Eden Prairie, perfecting his art and building a following that in May this year showed its loyalty in supporting Vocelka’s fight with the neighboring Homeowners Association to locate his tattoo studio in downtown Mound’s Lost Lake building.

“It’s small bits of time. It’s one tattoo, it’s one thing here, it’s one piece of artwork...and over time, you grow this huge following of people—but you don’t see it. It’s not tangible. Until something like this happens,” said Vocelka. “Overwhelming is probably the best way to put it, in a good way.”

The two prongs of Vocelka’s business developed almost simultaneously. Having previously worked in Mound for a custom rod builder, he over time developed a knack for building custom fishing rods, a skill he then took north with him and, in fishing bass tournaments around Duluth, gained a following for his work.

These adventurers—whether competing with or against Vocelka—then learned that he did tattoos.

“It became this unique, niche market of artistic people and fishermen with attention to detail that appreciate the outdoors but were also willing to get tattooed,” said Vocelka.

The bass fighting circuit became “a one-hub stop” where Vocelka said he could compete, show off his custom rods and talk about the work he did back in the studio, often times seeing those fellow anglers in the chair soon after meeting them. “That’s where it started, in Duluth, and the whole thing kind of blew up in my face,” he said, laughing.

Vocelka opened his studio in Mound this August. The exterior is unassuming: a simple sign of clean lines reads only “The Harbor.” You’d never know it’s where you’d go to get inked.

That clean finish was a good faith promise that Vocelka had made to city officials when he came before council this spring asking to locate in the retail building at Lost Lake. It’s also part of Vocelka’s vision for his studio as he sets up against what he said is a persisting, though slowly fading, stigma about the tattoo industry.

“I think there’s still a little bit of a stereotype with tattooing, and I think the stereotype is more in the clientele—that’s where [the stereotype] is driven, that it’s a little more riff-raffy and you have night goers and it’s just kind of ‘not clean.’ But that has slowly changed over time,” he said. Now, an artist’s clientele is just as apt to be doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

Most mornings find Vocelka sitting at the front of studio, sketching out the art for the day’s sessions, framed in the large window by the contrast between

the interior’s lighting and the pre-dawn darkness outside. A coffee bar stands against the front wall and fishing rods, backed by championship tournament plaques, add extra facing to the counter.

“It’s not this little underground, private, ‘you have to be part of the club’ kind of thing,” he said, paging through the portfolio of his work that sits on the coffee table. There’s also a recent issue of Bassmaster magazine.

“We’re changing the perspective. Because [tattooing] is a fine art.” Vocelka said he invites the casual visitor who just has questions to come in and ask them.

Up to the end of October, Vocelka had been solo at The Harbor, but beginning this month he’ll be joined by an artist he worked alongside of in Eden Prairie and who had also been a groomsman in his wedding. That’s one thing that, changing the perception aside, Vocelka anticipates continuing from the old ways of studios—that among those who work there, it feels like family.

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Share your knowledge with a state commission

What does a dentist, an elevator boring contractor, a law enforcement officer and a farmer living in Minnesota have in common?

They are all eligible to fill a few of the current 530 open appointed positions on various boards, commissions, work groups and task forces serving the State of Minnesota in a variety of important ways.

A dentist is needed for an open seat on the nine-member Minnesota Board of Dentistry. This board examines, licenses and regulates dentists and dental therapists, hygienists and assistants and enforces the Minnesota Dental Practices Act.

The State Advisory Council on Wells and Borings is currently looking for a licensed elevator boring contractor to serve a four-year term. This council advises the Minnesota Department of Health on licensing or registering well contractors and explorers, and on technical matters relating to the regulation or the construction, maintenance and ultimate sealing of wells and borings. The council also advises the MDH well program on policies, proposed rule revisions and technical matters and administers oral examination to well contractor applicants.

A licensed law enforcement officer is needed to fill a seat on the Teen Driver

OUR VIEW APG/ECM EDITORIAL BOARD

Safety Commissioner's Advisory Task Force, formed by the State Legislature in 2019. This task force, which is slated to end its work in 2023, will advise and provide input to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety on teen driver issues with the goal of reducing crashes, injuries and deaths involving teen drivers. Besides representatives of law enforcement and public and private driver schools, the task force also has seats needing to be filled by four teen drivers and three community-at-large members.

An open seat on the Minnesota Pesticide Management Plan Committee is reserved for a state farmer. The committee, which has been in force since 1976, provides the Minnesota Department of Agriculture commissioner with evaluation activities and decisions related to the implementation of the state Pesticide Management Plan for the Protection of Groundwater and Surface Water (the PMP).

This quick review of just four of the 254 boards, commissions, work groups and task forces shows just how necessary they are to the workings of state

government and what an invaluable asset the 3,636 state residents serving in the current positions are to the state.

Secretary of State Steve Simon, whose office acts as a clearinghouse for applicants seeking positions on the state's board, commissions, work groups and task forces, said recently Minnesota is fortunate residents consistently show an eagerness to volunteer their knowledge, skills and life experiences to benefit the state. The actual appointments are made by the governor and the state departments and agencies where the various groups are housed.

"We are seldom scrambling to fill positions even though some require very specific licensure and affiliation," Simon said.

The challenge, he added, is to make sure every area of Minnesota, rural and urban, north and south, east and west are adequately represented. "We need people from every corner of the state serving to get a healthy balance of input and opinions in the important decisions these boards, commissions, work groups and task forces make. The impact they have on life in Minnesota is immeasurable."

And, just as important, is encouraging more members of diverse communities to apply. "We need everyone at the table," Simon said.

This is why Simon says he speaks about his office's responsibility as the clearinghouse for applications at every opportunity. He is proud of this unique role the Secretary of State's office plays in Minnesota since most states don't have the same system. The Minnesota Open Appointments Act was authorized by the Legislature in 1978 to simplify and open the appointment process.

As evidence of the effectiveness of Minnesota's appointment process, Simon points to the fact that there are over 24,000 subscribers to the online "current openings" notification.

Looking through the long and varied list of opportunities to serve the state in this way, everyone who is interested and has the time to serve should find something they qualify for and are passionate about.

A list of boards and commissions, including open positions, can be found on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website. For questions about the process or how to get involved, contact gov.appointments@state.mn.us.

— An editorial from the APG of East Central Minnesota Editorial Board. Reactions are welcome. Send to: editorial.board@apgecm.com.

READERS WRITE

Osmek, GOP senators need to fight vaccine mandates

To the editor,

Who would have thought that a virus, leaked from a lab in China, would destroy American freedom as we know it? Our God-given rights have been trampled under the guise of public health. Concepts like medical freedom and body autonomy have been discarded and avoided.

While most vaccines provide immunity for diseases, these vaccines do not. While most vaccines have been studied and researched for decades, these vaccines have not. While most vaccines follow procedures that force transparency of negative reactions and side effects, these vaccines do not.

We are witnessing the destruction of our great nation and state because President Joe Biden and Gov. Tim Walz think

they know how to live our lives better than we do. This is pure tyranny. Many are taking the ultimate stand against unlawful, government mandated, vaccine coercion by losing their jobs, something they should never have to do.

We should not live in a state where your religious exemption can be denied or you need an exemption from this shot in the first place!

The state Senate has a Repub-

lican majority consisting of 34 republicans, 31 democrats, and two independents so if every Republican senator votes together we can end this forever!

The legislature will be meeting for a special session to vote on the Frontline Workers Pay Bill so the GOP senators need to propose the Stop Vaccine Mandates Amendment in that bill before a new era of discrimination and segregation becomes law in Minnesota.

We need to call up our state senator, David Osmek, at (651)-296-1282 and force him to end the vaccine mandates during this special session.

It's time to show if he is a champ or a chump. We need leadership and for Osmek to represent his constituents. Your call could make the difference, we can persuade him to fight!

Russell Browne Mound

LAKER PIONEER

(21540)

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LETTERS POLICY

The opinions of readers in the form of letters to the editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Laker Pioneer Opinion page. We encourage readers to write letters to the editor as a way of communicating ideas and opinions with each other, with the goal being to make this a better community for all people who live, work and visit. Please be courteous in your letters and make the attempt to offer opinions that will be constructive, rather than destructive only in nature. When submitting a letter to the editor, please note the following:

- All letters must include the name of the writer (no more than five authors per letter) as well as the writer's name and city. All writers must identify themselves in person or provide a phone number for verification. Letters may be submitted in person or via mail, fax or email. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Send letters via email to: jason.schmucker@apgecm.com or by mail to: 8 South Elm Street, Waconia, MN 55387.
- Writers are asked to follow a 350 word limit with their letters. Writers will be allowed only one letter per 30 day period for consideration. Rebuttal letters may be allowed at the discretion of the editor.
- Submitting a letter to the editor does not guarantee publication. The newspaper reserves the rights to accept, edit or deny any letter, solely at its discretion. Letters deemed to contain potentially libelous comments, or other material deemed to raise potential legal problems, will not be published, or will be edited appropriately. Writers should cite their sources and may be asked to provide sources before a letter is published.
- Letters may not be accepted for publication from people who reside outside the coverage area unless the letters are written on a topic of local interest or as the editor deems necessary.
- Opinions expressed in the letters do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.
- Special criteria will be used for letters during an election season.

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Why I am optimistic for our nation's future

One of the great privileges of teaching and working on a university campus is the chance to be in regular touch with young people. Even better, I sometimes get asked to give talks elsewhere and to meet with young people of all kinds and descriptions — sometimes one-on-one, sometimes in small groups, sometimes with as many as 50 or 60 people.

Over the past few years, this has given me a chance to observe the upcoming generation of citizens and leaders, and what I've seen heartens me. Not least because the young people I've met are, for the most part, deeply concerned about the future of the country. They can be sharply critical, but it's clear that most of them take a fundamental pride in what this nation stands for and how far it's traveled over the centuries.

This shows up in a fundamental respect for the country's diversity, and an overall respect for many of the institutions of representative democracy: the military, the courts, law enforcement, the health care system — though Congress often comes in for some sharp words. To be sure, they



LEE
HAMILTON

GUEST COLUMN

can also be critical of these institutions' flaws, but I haven't encountered anyone who wants to tear them up and start over again. Instead, they want to fix what's in front of them. They're curious about how the nation's institutions work, even skeptical, but they don't reject them outright as irredeemably flawed.

There are several key issues that dominate our conversations: climate change, COVID-19, student loans and college debt. If you ask what problems they're most concerned about, racial issues also loom large: they see racial inequity and repairing historic wrongs as a huge and important challenge to our representative democracy. Interestingly, more than the older people I encounter, they will often speak up

in favor of US engagement with the world and want the US to exert a helpful leadership role.

When it comes to domestic politics, I've been struck by the extent to which the students I meet seem interested in making voting easier. Not infrequently, they'll bring up the idea of making Election Day a national holiday. And they seem to like the idea of automatic voter registration for citizens, to encourage participation.

As for their own participation, I often ask if anyone wants to run for public office. I'm always pleasantly surprised at the number of hands that go up. More than a few want to pursue jobs in government at all levels, arguing that they can make a greater contribution there than they might otherwise — they recognize that working for government is not a path to great wealth, yet they're still committed to that idea. Perhaps most heartening, even those who have no desire to serve in government confess an interest in serving their communities and improving their corner of the world. I always come away stirred by the number of these young peo-

ple who speak with knowledge and commitment about their desire to be of service.

To be sure, it's bracing to sit in on their discussions about where the country's headed. They're often robust, with plenty of differences of opinion. But underlying these conversations is a general optimism about the future — and, quite notably in this political climate, a wide tolerance for the viewpoints of others and a willingness to listen to one another. I wish it were more common among adults.

The one other thing I'll note is that fairly regularly, I come across students — of all races, ethnicity, and description — who are clearly talented, engaged, and impressive. They are, I believe, marked for leadership. And if I'm right, we're going to be in good hands.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government, a nonpartisan educational institution that believes learning about Congress is central to responsible citizenship. Hamilton was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years

READERS WRITE

GOP will ensure we all fail, and blame it on Biden

To the editor,

A North Carolina Republican congressman, Madison Cawthorn, recently held a discussion group with Republican women in which he told them to "raise monsters." What are today's Republicans thinking? What could possibly be behind all the lies and brainwashing? Power and money — plain and simple.

Had they truly cared about the "people" they would not have lied and played down such a serious pandemic. And now they have the audacity to try and blame President Joe Biden for inflation, supply shortages and the like? We are in the aftermath of a previous administration's extreme failures and lies that hurt us greatly. We will recover in time — but if Republicans have any say in the matter, they will make sure we all fail... oh, and blame it on Biden.

Bill LaRue
Cologne

Elections, vaccines, media and gov't not to be trusted

To the editor,

Recent letter writers brought up the topic of if we should trust the president and the government.

Well, let's see. Start with the last election. Maricopa County, Arizona, had about 9,000 more mail-in ballots returned than were issued. Pennsylvania was even worse. Georgia's rejection rate for questionable ballots was unbelievably and suspiciously low. Wisconsin had major problems with ballot envelopes missing witness identification. When the media says there was "no evidence of widespread election fraud," they must mean it was only in a few states.

How can we be confident in our election system?

Then there's the vaccine mandate. The mainstream media is beholden to pharmaceutical advertising and won't tell the whole story. Instead, we have to seek out truth from other sources that are more credible.

The COVID injection doesn't prevent infection, like smallpox or polio vaccines do, but it does give one a better chance of reducing effects. Thus, the vaccine may provide a personal benefit in some cases, but not a public one.

Those who are vaccinated still get and transmit the virus, and therefore are just as big a risk to others as anyone else — maybe even more so because they've been deluded into thinking they're safe.

No one knows the long-term side effects from the vaccine,

and the short-term picture looks pretty risky too. I downloaded the Vaccine Adverse Effect Reporting System (VAERS) data and saw that Minnesota had 11,637 reports from January through September.

It is only identified by state, but pro-rating the data by county population corresponds to 218 for Carver County, not too far away from one per day. Those are only reported cases; some people don't even know that complications can be reported.

Beyond the vaccine effects, the biggest problem of all is having it forced upon us. When the government is so aggressive at trying to get a substance put into our bodies, that alone is cause for alarm. And revolt!

Those who try to set the record straight get fired (Horak), investigated (Jensen), censored, ridiculed, labeled as providing misinformation, or whatever it takes to shut them up.

Why should we trust anyone who is trying to take away or reduce the freedoms we have left?

Dale Kovar
Mayer

Columnist misguided on causes for national division

To the editor,
Tom West, in his column of

Oct. 23, 2021, purports to be in support of bipartisan vote reform, then quickly goes about the task of minimizing the left and promoting the right. He frames his piece by first declaring that the philosophical rift in America is very deep, then shares the results of a survey which claims to substantiate an unapproachable political divide. The solution to this problem, he writes, must be bipartisan election reform.

It is reasonable to agree that our nation is currently beset by widespread polarized views. However, the belief that the underlying cause is fraudulent elections is sorely misplaced. In an exhaustive public records search, Carnegie-Knight News 21 Program reporters sent thousands of requests to election officials in all 50 states in 2012. They asked for every case of fraudulent activity, including registration fraud and absentee ballot fraud. Their analysis turned up only ten cases of voter impersonation out of 146 million voters. That's one out of about every 15 million voters.

While claiming to make voting more accessible and equitable, the new rules enacted by legislatures in so-called red states do quite the opposite. In the last election, voters in the poorer districts in Georgia, for

example, stood in line in the rain for as long as seven hours in order to cast their ballots. Part of Georgia's new voting law makes it a felony to offer a simple drink of water to someone waiting in such a line. That is not the way to cure the scourge of a polarized political atmosphere.

What appears to have been overlooked here is the influence of social media. Recent investigations and hearings have only begun to unravel and decipher the tangled web of deceit and manipulation by entities such as Facebook. The multitude of radical and unsubstantiated claims on social media, meant to appeal primarily to a particular political base, have driven thousands to the political fringes. Ultimately, the threat to our democracy comes not from the presence of differing points of view. It comes from the myth of voter fraud used to challenge election results and to justify rules that restrict full and equal voting rights. Informed citizens are our democracy's best defense. It is acceptable to take a stance on one side or the other. The decision on which side to support, however, should be founded on fact.

Stephen A. Miltich
St. Bonifacius

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**NOV. 6
TONKA BREW FEST** - Mound Westonka Rotary is hosting Tonka Brew Fest at Gale Woods Farm in Minnetrista from 3-6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6. Learn more and buy tickets at tonkabrewfest.com.

**NOV. 6
HOLIDAY BAZAAR & BAKE SALE** - Mt. Olive Lutheran Church is having a Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to

12 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6. Come out to Mt. Olive (5218 Bartlett Blvd., Mound) for spruce tip planters, handmade crafts and gifts, home-baked goods, jams and jellies, potted plants, gifts and treasures and more! Proceeds support missions & Christian Women's projects.

**NOV. 7
GILLESPIE FUNDRAISER** - The Gillespie Center in Mound is

holding a sweepstakes fundraiser now through Nov. 15. Sweepstakes Program Highlights: tickets cost \$52 each and only 300 are sold. Weekly drawings for \$100 prize and quarterly drawings for a \$250 prize. Winners' names are put back in the pool so each ticket has 56 changes to win! Call Mindy at 952-472-6501 to purchase a ticket or stop by the Gillespie Center (2590 Commerce Blvd., Mound;

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) now through Nov. 15. Thank you for supporting this vital fundraiser for our Gillespie Center!

**NOV. 8
DEFENSIVE DRIVING** - There will be a refresher course in defensive driving held 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Gillespie Center in Mound. Call 1-888-234-1294 to register.

**NOV. 8
INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING** - Live lively and learn a few square dance calls at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 8 at Grandview Middle School, 1881 Commerce Blvd., Mound. No previous experience required. Everyone's welcome: solos, couples, and families. No charge. Partners provided. Casual attire. 612-759-9235 or Westonkawhirlers.com

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Long Lake approves pension increase for city firefighters

BY TODD ABELN
reporter.patriot@apgecm.com

The pension benefits for Long Lake firefighters is going up.

The Long Lake Fire Department Relief Association asked the Long Lake City Council for an increase to its pension benefit level at the city council meeting on Monday and the council gave it unanimous approval.

The increase in the pension benefit level is for \$7,000 per year of service. That's up from \$6,000, which was approved by the city council in 2020.

With the council's approval, a Long Lake firefighter would receive \$7,000 per service year after he or she retires from the department. They are vested at 60 percent after 10 years on the department, and at 100 percent after 20 years with the department. If they stay on past 20 years, they would receive another \$7,000 for each additional year they are with the department.

The city council has approved increases in the benefit level five times starting in 2014 raising the level to \$3,400 per year of service. The Long Lake Fire Department Relief Association did not ask for increases in 2016 and in 2019.

They didn't ask for an increase in 2016 due to the rate of return being negative and funding ratio dropping below 110 percent at the end of 2015. The fund bounced back in 2016 with an 8 percent rate of return increase in their investments. With that improvement the funding ratio jumped up from 104.9 percent to 114.2 percent.

In other council news, the council approved a special event permit to Birch's on the Lake for Sled Dog Days.

Birch's requested to utilize Long Lake for Sled Dog Days on Jan. 15-16, Jan. 22-23 and Feb. 13, 19-20 where they would offer sled dog rides on those days with a musher on the back of the sled giving rides. The sleds can hold two adults

or one adult and two children. Unleashed Sled Dog Adventures would provide the sleds and mushers and give rides for about a quarter mile around Long Lake.

Tickets would be sold for specific time and dates of the rides.

Also at the council meeting, WSB Engineers introduced the new city engineer Brad Reifsteck, who will be taking over for Alex Mollenkamp. Reifsteck has over 30 years of experience and has been the city engineer for the cities of Grant and Oak Park Heights.

Monica Heil, Vice President of Municipal Services with WSB, told the council that the city will not incur any additional engineering costs associated with the transition and that they will continue to honor the billing rate they had when Mollenkamp was the city engineer.

Follow *The Laker Pioneer* on Facebook.

2nd construction stage underway on Hwy. 12

BY TODD ABELN
reporter.patriot@apgecm.com

On Wednesday, Oct. 26, crews moved to the second stage of construction on County Road 92 at Highway 12 in Independence.

Minnesota Department of Transportation and Hennepin County announced that the construction area around both intersections of County Road 92 and Highway 12 will be busier than usual as crews will be getting the project area ready for the new County Road 92 alignment and

bridge construction.

The main activities during this stage will include: clearing the work area (including removing brush and trees), beginning foundation and supporting structure work for the new bridge, beginning road foundation work, and constructing the new frontage road and cul-de-sac along Highway 12.

They expect to finish those activities by winter, but the winter weather could impact those plans.

Drivers can expect access changes in the coming

weeks as the south leg connection of County Road 92 is open and the north leg connection will be open for a few more weeks. Drivers on County Road 92 can expect occasional lane shifts and narrowed lanes through the construction area, as there will be work happening along the shoulders and near the road.

In early November, the north leg connection will close long-term and will remain closed until crews complete major construction activities in late 2022.

This project also perma-

nently closes access between Valley Road and Highway 12. This access will close in November.

There will be an e-mail notification to notify County Road 92 users before the closure.

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Obituaries

Gene Harley Block

Gene Harley Block, age 88 of Navarre, MN, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2021.

Preceded in death by wife, Sheri; son, Troy; daughter, Teri; parents, Anna and Philip Block.

Survived by son, Steve Block and wife Debbie of Rush City, MN; son, Chris Block and wife Courtney of Navarre, MN; daughter, Lori Block McFarland and husband Gary of Louisville, KY; grandchildren, Sarah, Megan, Zack, Cory, Casey, Cady; great grandchildren, Tyler, Sharmaine, Krystani, Aliyah, My'Reese, Luke; brother, Shirley Block and wife Mavis of St. Cloud, MN.

Please join us for a Celebration of Gene's Life at 1:30 Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the Gillespie Center in Mound. 1:30 - 3:30 (2:00 Memory Sharing for all). Gillespie Center, 2590 Commerce Blvd, Mound, MN. Interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Huber Funeral & Cremation Service
Mound Chapel 952-472-1716
www.huberfunerals.com



Jeana Annette Fox

of Wayzata, MN died on October 14, 2021 at the age of 75 years old.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Stanley Fredrick and Margaret Tallman Fuchs, her brothers Stanley C. Fox and Robert "Bob" Fuchs, and her nephew Jeff Fox.

Jeana is survived by her three sons, Travis Veit (Katelyn "Red"), Toby Veit (Sara), Tyler Veit (Anna) and five grandchildren: Ava, Blake and Cole (Toby & Sara) and William and Victoria (Tyler & Anna). She is also survived by her brother Fred Fox (Paula), many nieces and nephews, former stepchildren and their families.

Jeana was born on October 5th, 1946 in Janesville, WI and was raised there in her family home in the country. She became enlightened at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the 60's during a time of political and social upheaval during the Vietnam War. After traveling and living in different locales including Chicago and Boulder, Jeana settled in Minnesota in 1976 where she raised her family. She worked in hotels and in property management, retiring in 1999 when she was diagnosed with cancer. She spent the years after volunteering at Assistance League, having coffee with friends, shopping (often online) and enjoying time with her dogs.

Celebration of Life will be held at the David Lee Funeral Home, 1220 Wayzata Blvd East in Wayzata, MN on November 7th, at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Jeana wished for donations to The Assistance League of Minneapolis (www.assistanceleague.org/minneapolis-st-paul) or Howling for Wolves (www.howlingforwolves.org).

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they walk beside us everyday
unseen, unheard but always near,
still loved, still missed,
and very dear*

Mound appeals to legislators for funding

City manager: \$24M water treatment project demands ‘creative financial structuring’

BY ELIZABETH HUSTAD
laker@apgecm.com

The state funding source that officials for the city of Mound had pinned their hopes on to support what is likely to be a \$24 million fix to the Mound water system’s manganese problem has scored the project in the bottom 2.5 percent of “fundable” projects.

The Public Facilities Authority (PFA) ranked the proposed water filtration plant 343 of 352 on its list of priorities for next year, sobering news for a town that already has some of the highest water rates in the state and little capacity to take on additional debt.

City officials, joined by their representative in St. Paul, Sen. David Osmeck, appealed to members of the Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee Oct. 28.

“If the EPA didn’t decide to make this a pollutant and MPCA didn’t decide [administratively] to make these changes, we wouldn’t be here today,” said Osmeck.

The Environmental Protection Agency began advising on levels of manganese in drinking water in 2018. Minnesota Department of Health has since taken to supporting the EPA’s guidance for the contaminate and established health-based advisory limits of 300 parts per billion (ppb) for adults and 100

ppb for infants. Spot testing at Mound’s two active wells last December had returned manganese levels of 700 ppb and 475 ppb.

Manganese remains a secondary contaminant, not regulated the way that arsenic or lead is, and MDH has said that exposure to it is not immediately threatening but could over time contribute to adverse health effects.

That secondary status contributed to the low ranking that Mound received from the PFA. But that status didn’t prevent the city from having to issue a “do not drink” order to its residents back in March.

“That’s a bell that’s almost impossible to unring unless you solve the problem,” said Eric Hoversten, Mound city manager.

Only, solving the problem is expected to cost \$24 million, according to the feasibility report engineers returned to the city in June (see July 3 Laker, “Estimate for Mound water treatment plant grows to \$24.9M.”)

“How do we do this without driving hardship into most of the residents, the ratepayers, across our community?” asked Hoversten.

‘CREATIVE FINANCIAL STRUCTURING’

Mound residents already see an average monthly water bill of \$42 and, with no outside funding source, officials have

forecast a worst-case scenario of that monthly bill climbing to \$75.

“For some that may not seem like much, but for many that’s going to be the straw that breaks the camel’s back,” said Hoversten, speaking before members of the CIC at Mound City Hall. “It’s an unfathomable rate increase. It was unforeseeable, it was beyond our control.”

In their appeal to the CIC, Mound officials met with some resistance from senators who had listened to the appeals of three other cities earlier that day—cities that don’t have the kind of median income or median home value seen in Mound.

“You’re mixing people on the lake, which can be million-dollar-a-year [families], versus two people that are a block in that could be struggling at minimum wage, literally speaking,” Osmeck countered. “We have the most eclectic mix of housing in the entire state right in this area. Median household income is a wonderful metric, but it underserves this type of mixed population.”

Compared with cities that share similar rate structures for water, Mound falls behind only Orono and Tonka Bay in having the highest rates. But unlike Orono and Tonka Bay—and unlike Minnetrista or Spring Park—Mound residents aren’t generally able to leverage the more favorable metrics like median income or home value against these rates.

Mound still carries \$48.1 million in debt from the infrastructure improve-

ments made in the 2000s, and \$12 million of that is attributable to water projects alone. About a third of the city’s general fund expenditures each year go toward debt service.

“We’ve had to grow our rates already to pay for that investment to the point where our rates have outpaced some of the other economic indicators that are on the good side of people’s wallet—like median income—and other indicators—like what government costs and tax rates,” said Hoversten.

The city deliberately froze rate increases for most utilities in 2018 to alleviate some of the burden. Mound is now running a \$2.8 million deficit in its water fund.

With the news from the PFA, the city is now requesting legislative funding, grant money, forgivable debt or extended payment terms as a way to meet the full cost of the project.

More standard revenue options—bonding or use of a revolving fund—also remain but officials are seeing these as last ditch measures. There’s little capacity to take on more debt, they say, and unlike other cities that might be able to rely on new home growth to allay the costs of a new treatment plant, Mound is “capped out.”

“This project demands some creative financial structuring,” said Hoversten. “We feel like we have some fiscal realities that drive us to that. We just don’t even have the money to start this.”

State Sen. David Osmeck joined Mound officials last Thursday in appealing to the Minnesota Senate’s Capital Investment Committee. The city is looking for “creative financial structuring” to fix its manganese problem with a \$24 million filtration plant. (Elizabeth Hustad/Laker Pioneer)



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'Mamma Mia!' coming to Orono High School

BY TODD ABELN
reporter.patriot@apgecm.com

Are you a fan of musicals and of ABBA? If so, get your tickets now for the Orono High School fall musical production of "Mamma Mia!"

The Orono High School Theatre Club will have live showings of the popular musical over the next two weekends at the Orono High School Fenholt Auditorium. The shows run from Nov. 12-13 and Nov. 18-20 at 7 p.m., plus a matinee on Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$10 for adults, and are available online at oronohs.booktix.com.

"Audience members can expect to see a large cast performing some of their favorite ABBA hits and sharing the sweet, funny, and uplifting story of Donna Sheridan," director Kelsie Balon said. "Donna is a middle-aged single mother who runs a ramshackle hotel on a Greek island while raising her 20-year-old daughter, Sophie. The story centers around Sophie's quest to find out who her father is before her wedding. The show has lots of humorous and touching moments, along with plenty of fun choreography and a beautiful set designed by two of our students, Gracie Stromberg and Amelia Shafer."

The large cast is led by senior Lilly Reiner who plays Donna Sheridan, sophomore Mara Newcom-

er playing Sophie Sheridan, junior Elie Engel in the part of Tanya, senior Claire Hyrkas in the role of Rosie, senior Jakob Waller as Sam Carmichael, senior Louis Kraimer as Bill Austin and senior Andrew VanOverbeke as Harry Bright.

"One challenge of rehearsals has been timing," Balon said. "With a large cast and a choreography-centric show like this, having lots of rehearsal time is imperative. Our high school students are very involved with a variety of extracurriculars, so coordinating full-cast rehearsals can be tough. The kids have done a great job spending extra time outside of rehearsals to review their choreography and run their lines in order to be ready for the show. The best part of the show is seeing everything come together during our dress rehearsals. That's when the kids really start to take ownership and make the show their own- it's a very cool thing to see."

Auditions were in early September at the start of the school year with rehearsals starting on Sept. 13 and continuing until the live shows next weekend.

"Students have been eager for an opportunity to come together and celebrate theater," Balon said. "'Mamma Mia!' is the perfect show to embrace joy, community, and a love of theater in a fun and upbeat way. It has a large cast with a very involved ensemble, tons of familiar songs for both the cast and audience, and a feel-good vibe that our students

are drawn to. The song choices also present a good challenge for some of our more seasoned actors, and the large ensemble provides opportunities for new students to get involved with the department."

Balon did what parents to know that some language and content could be considered PG and may not be appropriate for very young audience members and that she encourages parents to use their personal discretion.

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The Northwest Tonka Lions and Surfside Bar & Grill held a fundraiser party the night of Oct. 27 and donated \$10,000 to Westonka Hockey. (Elizabeth Hustad/Laker Pioneer)




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WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, OCT 15

Hwy 12 / CR 90, Independence. Officer assisted driver with picking up two boxes of decorative bricks that came off a pallet while he was in the roundabout.

1600 block CR 90, Independence. Officer and North Memorial EMS rendered care for a male who had shortness of breath and chest pains. Male did not want to go to hospital, a family member would keep an eye on him.

11:39 p.m. 5200 block Bryantwood Dr, Maple Plain. Female was outside for a walk, when a white SUV drove by and yelled something out the window, scaring the female. Area was checked and the SUV was not located.

SATURDAY, OCT 16

1700 block CR 90, Independence. Officer assisted motorist that ran out of gas with a ride to the gas station to get gas.

4800 block Gateway Blvd, Maple Plain. Officer assisted nursing staff with a female that fell and hit her head. Officer arrival, nursing staff had stopped the head wound from bleeding. North Memorial EMS arrived and assisted with patient care.

7:15 p.m. 4900 block Hwy 12, Maple Plain. 911 caller was following a vehicle that stopped at a green light, was weaving within its lane and varying speeds. Officer contact with the 80-year-old driver from New Hope, stated he usually doesn't drive at night, the headlight glare was making it hard for him to see and he was trying to

be careful. No impairment was detected with the driver.

SUNDAY, OCT 17

2:16 p.m. 2600 block CR 90, Independence. Caller reported a UTV drove onto the neighbor's property and a male walked into the woods. Officer contact with the male and the property owner who confirmed he gave permission for the male to hunt, but not where he was at. Officer had the property owner and male speak on the phone to figure out the details. Caller was advised of officer findings.

1500 block Howard Ave., Maple Plain. Male was in pain and out of his pain medication requested transportation to the hospital. North Memorial EMS transported. 5800 block Main Street, Maple Plain. Caller reported a drunk male was having stomach problems, feeling weird / strange and wanted to go to the hospital. Hennepin County Medical EMS arrived and transported him to the hospital.

MONDAY, OCT 18

5900 block Pagenkopf Rd, Independence. Homeowner reported the wiring harness to his trailer was cut. Unknown who suspect(s) are.

3100 block CR 92, Independence. Female had injured her knee after falling during the night. Officer assisted her son getting his mother into the vehicle so he could transport her to the hospital.

8100 block CR 11, Independence.

Several 911 calls were received of a horse running down CR 11. The horse was captured, and a homeowner agreed to keep the horse and until the owner was located. Horse owner was located and claimed her horse.

5800 block Main Street, Maple Plain. North Memorial EMS transported a male that had been drinking and had heart pains and difficulty breathing.

TUESDAY, OCT 19

1500 block Rainbow Park, Maple Plain. Reported someone vandalized the Rainbow Park bathrooms by putting rocks, mud, and grass clippings in the men's toilet. Case under investigation.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 20

1500 block Howard Ave., Maple Plain. Patient was not feeling well since Friday, was transported by ambulance to the hospital. Hwy 12 / Hitsman, Independence. Motorists' vehicle ran out of gas. Officer gave the motorist a ride to the gas station and back.

5200 block Bryantwood Dr Maple Plain. Victim reported a very loud noise when he started his vehicle. He exited his vehicle and looked under his car and noticed that catalytic converter was missing, stolen. Estimated loss \$400.

5000 block Main Street, Maple Plain. Female reported male was very intoxicated and yelling at her and her children but had since stopped. Argument was verbal, nothing physical and female requested police not to talk to the

male, to not upset him further as he was going to bed soon. 2300 block Nelson Rd, Independence. 4-year-old with trouble breathing, had been coughing hard and was lethargic. Officer arrival checked the vitals of the 4-year-old, due to symptoms, could potentially have croup. Parents decided not to have medics respond and they would transport their son in to be seen.

THURSDAY, OCT 21

4800 block Gateway Blvd, Maple Plain. Reported a patient was unconscious but breathing. North Memorial EMS transported the patient to the hospital.

Hwy 12/ CR 90 Roundabout, Independence. Veh 1 and Veh 2 w/b on Hwy 12 at the roundabout. Veh 2 took a wider turn and crossed over the white dotted line, striking Veh1 tire to the front driver's quarter panel. No injuries.

4800 block Gateway Blvd, Maple Plain. Officer responded for an employee that had shortness of breath and weakness. North Memorial EMS arrived and took over patient care.

6100 block Hwy 12, Independence. Driver reported his vehicle broke down and he had a tow enroute. Vehicle was in safe location to wait for tow. No further assistance was needed.

CR 92N /Turner Rd, Independence. Caller reported large clumps of mud, debris were on the road from a tractor leaving a field. Contact with the tractor driver

who was advised to clean up the roadway when he completed his field work as it was a road safety hazard. A later check, the debris was removed from the roadway, 9:21 p.m. 300 block Kuntz Dr, Independence. Officer contact with the driver of a vehicle parked in the middle of Kuntz Dr. Driver stated she just lives down the road and had stopped to use her phone. No signs of any impairment or criminal activity were found.

10:04 p.m. 6900 block Hwy 12, Independence. Officer observed a vehicle with its hazard lights on, stopped to assist the juvenile driver and passenger in the vehicle. Vehicle had run out of coolant, overheated and a family friend was bringing coolant. Officer stood by with squad lights on for safety until their help arrived and coolant was added, and they were on their way.

10:27 p.m. 5300 block Hwy 12, Maple Plain. Officer stopped to assist a driver in a vehicle pulled over to the shoulder of the roadway with its hazard lights on. Driver was on w/b on Hwy 12 on her way to Willmar, pulled over to use her GPS to look for a bathroom for her two little ones. Driver wanted to find a bathroom going west rather than turn around. Officer advised Delano was 5-10 min away. No signs of any impairment were found.

24 contacts of citations, verbal and written warnings were issued for traffic and equipment violations.

MINNETRISTA/ST. BONI POLICE REPORT

SUNDAY, OCT. 24

A 911 hang-up call from Pine Lane was found to be accidental.

Minnetrista Public Works was made aware of a sewer pump alarm along Cedar Point Road.

A wallet found on Crane Island was turned over to police.

A caller was concerned when hearing a cow in distress along Highway 7. Officers checked with the owner and everything was fine.

A death investigation was conducted on Tuxedo Road.

Officers mediated a civil dispute on Partridge Road.

MONDAY, OCT. 25

Officers responded to a medical call on Orchid Drive.

A criminal sexual assault case is being investigated in Minnetrista.

Officers responded to a medical call in a business parking lot along Highway 7.

An adult protection concern was reported to our office.

A Minnetrista female reported she received a call from someone claiming to be with the FBI regarding an investigation. They requested a picture of her driver's license, which she sent, and she was to wire \$18,000 to a bank in Thailand, which she did not do. She suffered no monetary loss.

A Greenwood, MN motorist struck a deer

on County Road 44, causing damage to his vehicle.

A Minnetrista motorist struck a deer on Highway 7. She claimed her vehicle sustained no damage and the deer had run off.

Officers checked on a suspicious semi at a construction site. He identified the driver and his mechanic who was trying to get the semi repaired.

A barking dog complaint was reported on West Branch Road.

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

A debit card and a driver's license were reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked along Ox Yoke Circle overnight. A fraudulent charge had since been made on the card.

Officers attempted to locate a wanted adult male in Minnetrista. He was not located.

A grass fire was reported on Squire Lane. On arrival, it was found the resident had a burning permit.

Several nuisance yards were reported in St Bonifacius. Officers are in the process of contacting owners to find resolutions.

Officers responded to a medical call on Main Street.

Officers blocked County Road 110 due to a fallen live wire, until Xcel Energy could respond.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

A Minnetrista male fell in his home and was

unable to stand. He was hospitalized.

Officers responded to a medical call on Tuxedo Road.

Tools valued at \$512 were stolen from the cab of an unlocked truck on Halstead Drive.

A Big Lake motorist was stopped on County Road 92 and was cited for having an unsecure load. He was hauling a Bobcat on a trailer.

Officers and St Boni Fire responded to a carbon monoxide alarm on Margaret Circle.

Officers responded to a medical call on Highland Street.

Officers responded to a medical call on Edsall Road.

THURSDAY, OCT. 28

A theft of a package was reported on Heidelberg Lane.

Officers assisted a stalled motorist who was blocking the turn lane at Highway 7 and County Road 11.

Officers responded to a medical call on Maple Lane.

A Minnetrista motorist failed to yield to a Litchfield motorist on Highway 7 and Highland Road, causing minor injuries. The Minnetrista driver was issued a citation for failing to yield and driving after revocation.

A suspicious vehicle was checked on at the Mound Westonka High School parking lot. It was found to have been parked there

for over a week. No one was around the vehicle.

A verbal disagreement was reported at a business along Highway 7. A couple who were sitting in a parked vehicle were spoken to and all was found to be okay.

FRIDAY, OCT. 29

A Main Street resident reported that his wallet was stolen and then returned.

Officers responded to a hit gas line on Nicolas Way.

A dog found on Halstead Drive was reunited with its owner.

An officer stopped to check on a vehicle parked along County Road 110W. A passenger said he'd gotten out to look at a sign on the yard.

A St Boni motorist reported her vehicle was side-swiped by a white Ford F150 near the intersection of Highway 7 and County Road 44, causing minor damage. That driver then left the scene.

A welfare check was requested and conducted on Kennedy Memorial Drive.

A Minnetrista male reported receiving threats via phone regarding some activity he's not been a part of. It was thought to be a scam and he was advised to block the number.

SATURDAY, OCT. 30

A report of fireworks was received along North Arm Drive. Upon arrival, the officer neither saw nor heard fireworks.

WeCAB participates in 'Give to the Max'

WeCAB is participating in the 13th annual Give to the Max giving event taking place this year starting on Monday, Nov. 1 and culminating on Thursday, Nov. 18. Give to the Max is a statewide giving event that raises millions each year for more than 6,000 causes across Minnesota and beyond. Considered Minnesota's holiday for generosity, donors have given more than \$225 million since the inaugural Give to the Max Day in 2009.

WeCAB is a network of volunteers whose mission is to provide safe, affordable, flexible and supplemental transportation. "We hope to raise \$3,600 this year, which is the equivalent of 360 rides greater than 30 miles, or the equivalent of one year of office rental space for us" stated Stephanie Alexander, executive director of WeCAB.

"Last year, we saw more donors and organizations participating in Give to the Max than ever before, crossing the \$30 mil-

lion mark for the very first time," said Jake Blumberg, executive director of GiveMN, the nonprofit that hosts Give to the Max. "Nonprofits and schools across Minnesota are still meeting record levels of need around the COVID-19 pandemic, disasters like this summer's wildfires, continuing to advance social justice, and much more. We're encouraging everyone to keep their foot on the generosity pedal this year and help organizations continue to be resilient for the work ahead of them."

To participate in Give to the Max, donors should visit GiveMN.org and search for the causes they care about most by name, keyword, ZIP code and more. Early Giving for Give to the Max begins Nov. 1 and continues through Give to the Max Day on Nov. 18, with random drawings for more than \$100,000 in prize grants for Minnesota organizations throughout the event.

Each donation made through GiveMN.org qualifies WeCAB for additional grants from the Give to the Max prize pool, thanks to the continued generosity of the Bush Foundation. GiveMN will award

To be a part of Give to the Max, visit GiveMN.org to make a gift to your favorite cause and use #GTMD21 to join in the social media conversation.

GiveMN is an independent nonprofit organization working to ignite generosity and

grow giving through GiveMN.org, Minnesota's giving marketplace, and RaiseMN, a fundraising coaching and training program.

Since 2009, nearly 700,000 donors have made gifts with ease and enthusiasm through GiveMN.org to make a difference for causes in their communities. Through this online marketplace for generosity, and

Follow The Laker Pioneer on Facebook.

District: Town hall meetings not affiliated with Orono schools

BY TODD ABELN
reporter.patriot@apgecm.com

Recently, the Orono School District sent out an email to the community stating that they are not affiliated with three planned town hall meetings at Orono City Hall.

In the email, the district said "in the last three days, the district has received numerous questions from parents and residents regarding a postcard mailing to our community announcing three town hall meetings at Orono City Hall. This postcard is not from the Orono School District, despite the use of the district's name. Please know that the Orono School Board and administration have no involvement in these meetings."

The email continued with the district reminding the community that the school board started to hold Listening Sessions before each meeting on Monday, Oct. 25.

"Public engagement is welcome and remains a hallmark of the school board-community relationship in Orono Schools," the email stated. "We invite community members to learn more about the school board listening sessions that commenced on Oct. 25, 2021. The listening sessions have replaced the community comments period during regular board meetings. Listening sessions provide an avenue for community members to share their voice with the school board in person.

This is a common practice among Minnesota school districts and works well to welcome all perspectives."

The next listening session will be held on Monday, Nov. 8. The Google form to request a speaking slot will open on Friday, Nov. 5, at 9 a.m.

Additional information about listening sessions and school board meeting access can be found on the Orono School Board website. Community members are also invited to email a board member at any time to share their comments or concerns. Board members' contact information is available at www.orono.k12.mn.us/school-board.

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Westonka, Independence vote incumbents back in

Voters in the Westonka school district faced a heavy ballot, with seven candidates seeking three spots on the Westonka school board. Ultimately, voters opted to give all three incumbents another term.

Incumbents Gary Wollner, Brian Carlson and Loren Davis took 18.65 percent, 18.55 percent and

17.93 percent of the vote, respectively.

Voters in Independence took a similar route in that city's city council race, opting to send both incumbents back to office.

Incumbents Brad Lee Spencer and Linda Betts secured 32.85 percent and 31.57 percent of the vote, respectively.



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Jim, Kim, James, Sarah, Hannah, Matthew and Emily Nash

Thank you for your service!

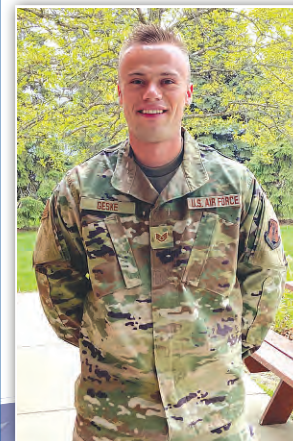


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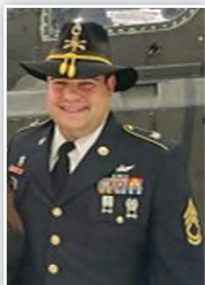


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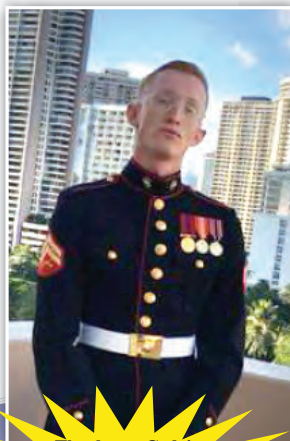
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EIGHT YEARS*

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Orono girls swim team wins conference crown

The Orono girls swim and dive team finished their dual meet season with a 99-85 win against New Prague.

The win put the team's final conference record and 9-0 and gave the team its first conference championship since 2009.

Individual event winners were Elle Davis in the 200 free (2:06.43), Addie Thalhuber in the 50 free (25.85) and 100

free (55.37), Haley Holzschuh in the 500 free (5:53.12), Skye Thalhuber in the 100 back (1:05.82), and Makena Rasmussen in the diving (235.85).

The Spartans also won two of the three relays with the team of Graycin Andreen, Caroline Close, Mallory Knutson and Addie Thalhuber taking first in the 200 Free Relay and the team of Reilly Anderson, Sofie Dyvik, Addie

Thalhuber, and Skye Thalhuber touching first in the 400 Free Relay.

On Saturday, the swimmers and divers that will not be competing at the Section 3A meet had their final meet at the Metro West Conference JV Championships in Chaska. With the entire team there to cheer them on, the girls finished the season with significant time drops across the board.

The meet is not scored, but quality and depth of the Spartans team was on display with swimmers placing in the top 10 in the majority of events. It was great to see all the hard work these kids have put in throughout the season pay off with big swims in the end.

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The Orono girls swim and dive team finished the season with a perfect 9-0 conference record. (Submitted Photo)



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Ridgeview will continue to provide 24/7/365 emergency care at Two Twelve Medical Center in Chaska and in the Arlington, Le Sueur and Waconia emergency departments.

RidgeviewMedical.org

Orono boys soccer reaches state semifinals

As soon as the weather turned, so did the tide for the Byron Bears. Despite coming in off of an eight game winning streak, the Bears Class AA Quarterfinal draw was a tough one against the No. 1 seed Orono Spartans.

Orono's speed, clinical finishes, one to two touch style of play, and their 16 seniors, make them a formidable opponent.

It didn't take long for Orono to gain the control of the game. In the first two minutes, junior Avery Anderson headed in the first goal of the night off of a Brody Cook corner kick. The next goal would come in the

12th minute when senior, Cook, received the ball at the 40 yard line, dribbled past two defenders, and put a left footed ball in the lower right corner past the Byron goalie.

Play continued to be concentrated in Byron's half. A corner was awarded to Orono in the 27th minute. It was a bit of rinse and repeat for the Spartans as a Cook corner found the head of junior Brodie Howe to make it 3-0, Orono.

The Orono defense, led by seniors Sebastian Loder and Cal Ehlen, was well positioned and made it tough for the Bears to play offensively.

The next goal for the Spartans would come after senior forward Andy DeWitt was downed 20 yards in front of the goal. DeWitt's free kick rocketed into the back of the net and added to Orono's already solid lead in the 33rd minute. 4-0, Spartans.

It would take only six more minutes for Orono to put two more points on the scoreboard. The first, a free kick from Anderson to the head of senior Cal Ehlen and the second, a clinical pass from Jack Prisendorf to DeWitt who beat two defenders to score with only 14 seconds left on the clock before halftime.

The Spartans rested most of their starters in the second half while their deep bench of seniors held onto their 6-0 lead for the remainder of the game. Despite having a few opportunities in the second half, the Bears were simply unable to penetrate the Spartan defense.

Orono faced the Willmar Cardinals at US Bank Stadium on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 12:30 p.m. in the Class AA State Semifinal.

This will be the Spartan's third qualification for the state tournament and their second semifinal appearance at US Bank Stadium in the last three years.

After the game, head coach Derek Engler said, "Our guys are playing for something bigger than themselves this year. These boys have some unfinished business from last year when their season was cut short and they stay in constant communication with the seniors from last year who did not have the opportunity to play at this world class stadium. Wednesday's game will be two years in the making and we are ready and excited to make memories that will last a lifetime."

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Spartans win a couple playoff thrillers on the gridiron

On Saturday night in Mound, facing a 21-15 deficit with just 1:30 on the clock, the ball on it's own 19 yard line, the Spartans faced the impossible.

They had battled Mound (8-0 on the season, No. 3 team in Class AAAA, and the No. 1 seed in the section) to a one possession game. A short time later and with just 16 seconds left on the clock this team, which has no quit, had done the improbable and taken a 22-21 lead.

The final drive is one that Spartan fans will be talking about for a long time. After advancing the ball to it's own 42 yard line, Orono faced a colossal third down with just 31 seconds left.

Charlie Kraus hit Nash Tichy running a wheel route for a huge 41-yard gain down to the Mound 16 yard line.

On the next play, Kraus floated a beautiful pass to the right corner of the end zone looking for Josh Delange running a fade route. Delange made a phenomenal adjustment twisting back to his right and fully extending his left arm out as he was falling backward, caught and balanced the ball on his left hand and pulled it into his body as he went to the ground.

The Orono fans waited for what seemed like an eternity, as the referee watched the play unfold in front of him, saw that Delange possessed the catch and threw his arms into the air to signal touchdown, sending the Spartan nation into a frenzy.

Jack Kalman drilled the extra point to give Orono a 22-21 lead and 16 seconds later, a sectional semi final victory.

"The Catch", which capped off "The Drive" will be part of Orono football lore for a very long time.

The catch was Delange's second touchdown of the night. He made another highlight reel catch late in the first half on a similar throw from Kraus to the left side of the end zone. This one he caught over his shoulder running into the back of the end zone and gave Orono a 15-14 halftime lead.

Mound grabbed the early lead 7-0 on a long drive that consumed most of the first quarter to start the game.

Orono answered on it's first possession when Aiden Mueller scored off the left side at the start of the second quarter. Then head coach Joe McPherson made a decision to go for two and Charlie Kraus ran it in extending the ball over the goal line as he was tackled. That two-point conversion provided the difference between a tie and win at the end for Orono.

Both teams scored twice in the first half and it was Mound that struck first in the second taking advantage of an Orono fumble on the first play of the half. Mound scored two plays later to take a 21-15 lead.

There were some big plays at key points in the game that turned the momentum. A big Mason Pankonin sack on third down forcing a Mound punt and a Bradley Walker interception that stopped another drive in the fourth quarter. The 21-15 lead held up until "The Drive" and "The Catch."

Orono (No. 4 seed in the section) earned their way to facing Mound by beating Delano (No. 5 seed in section) 21-20 in the opening round of the section playoffs last Tuesday night.

In that game Orono grabbed a quick 14-0 lead in the first quarter on a 5-yard run by Aiden Mueller and a 20-yard pass from Charlie Kraus to Josh Delange.

The second score coming off a Delano fumble and putting the momentum squarely with Orono. Delano battled back and tied the score at 14-14 heading into halftime.

The second half was a grudge match until Orono scored with under 2:30 to go in the game to take a 21-14 lead on a 15-yard Kraus pass to Nash Tichy.

Delano then drove the field and scored with just 12 seconds left. The Tigers chose to go for the two point conversion and the win on a short pass that had worked well for them all night.

This time Victor Ruhland read the play, jumped the route, and was able to deflect the ball and secure the win for Orono.

Big plays for the Orono defense included an interception by Oliver Stevenson and fumble recoveries by Nash Tichy and Bradley Walker and a big fourth down stop by Charlie Brophy.

The win over Mound, sends the No. 4 seeded Spartans to the section championship against No. 3 seeded Princeton who defeated No. 2 seed Zimmerman Saturday night. Game time is 7 p.m. at Princeton High School with the winner advancing to the Class AAAA State Tournament.

Orono closed out the regular season with a big road win, knocking of Hill-Murray 28-27 in a game that went down to the final seconds.

With a light rain falling most of the night, this game had it all big plays, turnovers, defensive stops, and gutsy coaching calls.

The Orono defense set the tone early as the Pioneers took the opening drive down to the Orono 26 yard line before a big defensive stop on 4th and 6 got the Spartan defense off the field.

The Spartan offense wasted no time grabbing the momentum. A screen pass from Charlie Kraus to Aiden Mueller picked up 28 yards. Three plays later Kraus hit Josh Delange on a beautiful throw in the right corner of the end zone for a 10-yard score. The Jack Kalman extra point put Orono up 7-0.

Hill-Murray got the next two scores to take a 14-7 lead.

A Hill-Murray miscue on a punt gave Orono the opening it needed late in the 2nd quarter. Hunter Fox recovered a muffed punt at the Hill Murray 37.

A few plays later, Kraus hit Fox for a 14-yard gain down to the Pioneer 14 yard line. Facing 3rd and 10 two plays later, Kraus hit Nash Tichy for a touchdown and a 14-14 tie.

Hill-Murray went up 20-14 with 2:04 remaining and would get one more shot

at adding points in the half after an Orono fumble.

Joey Greenagel intercepted a HM pass in the end zone and returned it to the 29 yard line to end the half.

A Mason Pankonin fumble recovery led to Orono tying the score 20-20 late in the third quarter on a 5-yard run by Aiden Mueller. Mueller delivered another dominating performance behind his offensive line with 244 yards on 38 carries.

Hill-Murray jumped on top 27-20 early in the fourth quarter.

Another Mueller run from the 2-yard line had the Spartans within 1 at 27-26.

Head coach Joe McPherson, showing maximum confidence in his team, went for two and gave the ball to Mueller who rammed across the goal line behind the left side of his offensive line and put Orono up 28-27 with 5:55 left in the game.

With the game in the balance and Hill-Murray driving, the game turned on big play.

Hill-Murray's running back, Simon Seidl, broke through the middle of the Orono defense and raced across midfield in what looked like a long game-winning touchdown run. Joey Greenagel caught Seidl and punched the ball out.

In a crazy scramble for the football, Victor Ruhland came up with the recovery for Orono at its own 17 yard line.

The next three plays gained 9 yards, and forced Hill-Murray to use all of their timeouts, leaving Orono a 4th and 1 with just over two minutes left in the game.

Coach McPherson, again showing maximum confidence in his team, went for it and Charlie Kraus converted on a short run off the left side.

With a fresh set of downs and no way for Hill Murray to stop the clock, the Spartans finished the game and the regular season with a very satisfying and hard earned win.

MWHF earns 3rd at conference championship

Conference competition came to a close on Saturday, Oct. 30 with a third place finish by the Mound Westonka – Holy Family (MWHF) Girls Swim and Dive team. Hutchinson hosted the six-team meet and finished as conference champions. Delano finished second.

Sophomore Catherine Dueck won the 200 Individual Medley (2:14.39) handily with a more than 3-second lead. Teammates Annie Springer (SR, captain) and Abigail Ries (SO) finished fifth and sixth respectively. Dueck took second in the 100 Freestyle (54.33), ahead of Jaylyn Storm (JR) in sixth, Izzy Sullivan (JR) 13th and Hanna Hall (SR, captain) 15th.

Ellen Ries (SR, captain) finished the 200 Freestyle in third place (2:01.81) with Kristin Collins (JR) and Courtney French (JR) finishing seventh and eighth. E. Ries took second in the 500 Freestyle (5:32.47) with Annemarie Johnson (FR) finishing third, Courtney

French (JR) eighth and Peyton Schmidt (FR) 10th.

Kate Johnston (JR) is conference champion in the 100 Breaststroke (1:07.71), with Johnson finishing fourth, Hall ninth and A. Ries (SO) 12th. Storm's 25.02 in the 50 Freestyle earned her a third place finish. Kate Johnson (JR) finished sixth; Kathryn Collins (SR, captain) finished 10th and Izzy Sullivan (JR) was 13th.

Springer finished third in the 100 Butterfly (1:01.96) with Ka. Collins in eighth, Camille Ness (FR) 13th and Roselyn Knoll (SR) 18th. Kr. Collins finished fifth in the 100 Backstroke with Ness, Onna Sullivan (FR) and Schmidt finishing seventh, 13th and 14th respectively.

Team relay events had the crowd on their feet. Kr. Collins, Johnston, Springer and Storm took third in the 200 Medley Relay with the team of Ness, Johnson, Ka. Collins and I.

Sullivan finishing seventh. Dueck, Storm, Johnston and E. Ries were on the podium with a second place finish in the 200 Freestyle relay with A. Ries, I Sullivan, O. Sullivan and Kr. Collins finishing fifth. E. Ries, Springer, A. Ries and Dueck finished third in the 400 Freestyle Relay with Ness, Ka. Collins, French and Johnston finishing fifth.

Seventh-grader Bailey Monette was the youngest diver at the meet and took second overall. Monette was aggressive in her dives, earning her place on the podium among the powerhouse Delano divers who finished first, third and fourth. MWHF's Britta Elliot (8th grade) finished eighth.

The next competition for Mound Westonka - Holy Family is the Sections Meet hosted by Willmar on Nov. 11 and 13.

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The MWHF 200 Freestyle Relay team of Jaylyn Storm (back left), Ellen Ries (back right), Catherine Dueck (front left) and Kate Johnston (front right) earned second place at the Wright County Conference Championship meet in Hutchinson. (Submitted photo)

Orono girls tennis completes successful season on court

The Orono girls tennis team wrapped up a great season on the courts last week.

The varsity team ended with a 10-4 record scoring impressive wins against Chanhassen and Bloomington Kennedy. They finished second in the Metro West Conference with an 8-1 conference record.

The team moved on as the fifth seed out of 18 teams for the section 5AA team tournament. They had a big win in the first round of sections beating Monticello 7-0. They ultimately lost to Maple Grove who won and went on to place fifth in the state tournament.

The team was led by senior co-captains Carli Olsen, Kate McGrann and Anna Murley.

Last year nine seniors graduated, eight of who played in the lineup. This year, the team had six returning varsity players included the co-captains, senior Ava Blaufuss, junior Mackenzie Callan and sophomore Kaavya Kokate. The eight new varsity players made an immediate impact as all 14 players won at least one varsity match.

"It was a really fun season with such a great group of girls. I'm really proud of the time and effort the girls put in to getting better. It was really fun to see everyone improve over the season," said Murley.

The Spartans were coached



The Orono girls tennis team finished in second place in the Metro West Conference this season. Senior Carli Olsen won the Class 2A singles consolation title this season. (Submitted Photos)

by Aaron Dvorak and Chris Franco who were terrific role models who made the season both fun and rewarding.

"We had eight new varsity players who all won a match this season. One of our goals was to improve everyday as a team and as individual players. We accomplished that goal which sets up nicely to have another successful season next year," said Coach Dvorak.

In individual section play, Olsen earned second place and a trip to the state tournament. She ended section play with a record of 5-1 losing only to the eventual state runner-up.

The highlight was a tough

fought match against the two seed, which Olsen ended up winning 6-3, 7-5. Blaufuss also competed in the individual singles tournament, but had a difficult first match losing to the sixth seed. Murley and Callan earned the fifth seed and won 6-0, 6-0 in the first match, but lost in the second round. McGrann and Kokate also played well in doubles, winning their first section matches, but losing to the section runner up, Wayzata. It was two tough days of competition, and the girls were supported by many fellow students, parents, and friends.

"It was really fun to participate in the individual section



tournament and play against great players. It was sad to see the season come to an end, but I was glad I've been able to soak it all in. I really couldn't imagine a better season with a better team," said McGrann.

Carli Olsen went on to state and represented the Spartans well. She completed the two-day event with a record of 3-1 and ended as the Class AA Singles Consolation Champion.

"Playing in the state tournament was a surreal feeling. You are surrounded by the best of the best and it was so exciting to know I was a part of that. I'm really proud of how I competed and that I was able to end my tennis

career on such a high. It was super fun to have all my family, friends, and coaches there cheering me on," said Olsen.

The team celebrated the season with a banquet at Iron Exchange in Maple Plain where Olsen was awarded the Most Valuable Player. The Rock Star award, which is awarded to a player based on leadership and spirit, was presented to sophomore Natalie Close by last year's recipient, Kate McGrann. The Be Nice award, which is given to someone who is constantly kind and smiling, was awarded to Lilly Helling. Olsen, Murley, and Callan earned All-Conference while Close and Kokate received All Conference Honorable Mention for their play during the season. All varsity seniors: Carli Olsen, Kate McGrann, Anna Murley, Ava Blaufuss, and Nina Larsen received the Metro State Academic Award.

The junior varsity team was coached by Scott Danielson and the junior varsity B team was coached by Dawn Reidinger and Anne Goldsmith. Both teams had successful seasons and the future for Orono tennis looks bright.

After a terrific season, next year will have a great group of girls led by elected captains Mackenzie Callan, Lilly Helling, and Josie Raiche.

White Hawk girls runners qualify for state

The Minnesota Section 6AA cross country meet was contested on Oct. 29 on a perfect sunny fall afternoon. These were much different conditions than 24 hours earlier, the original date of the meet. Due to heavy rain and slippery terrain, the meet was delayed one day. But now ready to race, 12 teams from across the metro trekked west to Collinwood Regional Park in Dassel, Minn. to celebrate their fitness and stamina and contend for a coveted trip to the State Meet.

State qualifying occurs in one of two ways; as a team or as an individual. The top two placing boys' and girls' teams automatically advance. The first six individual finishers who are not members of the first and second place teams also advance.

With a strong season to date and expectations high, the girls team was the third seed, just 1 point behind Breck. The last time the White Hawks girls team qualified for State was back in 2007; would they be able to reset the clock this day?

The starting gun set runners immediately uphill then down-



The Mound Westonka Girls Cross Country team, along with senior Lance Nemecek, qualified for the state cross country meet. (Submitted photo)

ward for a wooded loop followed by two rolling field loops. Junior Laura Sunnaborg and freshman Audrey Kirscht were the White Hawks leaders early on. The rest of the Westonka runners maintained a tight grouping, which is ideal for cross country scoring. As exhausted runners completed the grueling uphill finish, the waiting game for results began.

With cheers and sighs of relief, and by placing second, the girls team qualified for the state meet. The team finished with

Laura Sunnaborg in ninth with a 20:25, Audrey Kirscht placed 13th with a 20:47, and right on her heels was Allison Soule in 14th with a 20:57. Next in were Emma Andrev in 18th with a 21:07, Sophia Engesser in 20th with a 21:13, Brooke Garlock in 30th with a 21:56 and Mari Engesser in 33rd with a 22:07.

The boys were up next. The typical nervousness and excitement at the start line right before a race was amplified due to the race postponement. Not to mention, some of the fast-

est runners in the state would soon be unleashed to run. White Hawks senior Lance Nemecek was seeded seventh and favorable for a qualifying spot. Could he pull it off? The pace was blistering from the outset and the field was soon spread out. At the halfway point, Nemecek was fighting to hold the ninth spot, with senior Josh Engesser and junior Jacob Trost giving it their all to gain ground.

The tense moments immediately following the race

subsided with the posting of the official results. The White Hawks had an individual qualifier with Nemecek placing 10th with a time of 17:00. Next was Josh Engesser in 18th with a 17:33, Jacob Trost in 30th with a 18:03, Charlie Paul in 37th with a 18:20, Max Epsky in 39th with a 18:28, Brandon Knock in 43rd with a 18:38 and Wyatt Carlson in 53rd with a 19:03. The team placed sixth out of a total of 11 teams.

Coach Butch Humbert stated, "The Section Meet witnessed all of our kids racing well...I was impressed with the enthusiasm our kids brought to our events this week..."

The MSHSL State Cross Country Meet concludes the cross country season and will be held Nov. 6 at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. Lance Nemecek races in the boys 2AA race at 2:30 p.m. and the White Hawks girls team will compete in the girls 2AA race at 3:30 p.m.

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In final seconds, Spartans victorious over White Hawks

If you like a "good game" then Saturday's Section 6AAAA Semifinals did not disappoint.

Two very evenly matched teams squared off in a game not-soon-forgotten by either team or their fans. Forty-eight hard-fought minutes kept this game between Mound Westonka and Orono close down to the very last seconds.

The White Hawks would receive to start the game and Ben Tice would return the ball to the 28 to start the game. Westonka leaned on their running game for their first dive with Tyler Albert, Tyler Von Bank and quarterback Jake Gaylord all working together to push the ball upfield. Eating over 7 minutes off the clock, the White Hawks wouldn't stop until Albert found the endzone. Ben Neve's extra point would make it 7-0.

Orono responded quickly with a monster 42-yard run by Aidan Mueller but despite

the big run on their first set of downs, yards in the next set of downs would be harder to come by. As they worked their way down the field the quarter would expire. As they switched ends of the field, they would also ultimately find the endzone and would complete the 2-point conversion to go up 8-7.

Westonka would get the ball back and would lean on their run game again. The same backs and Jake Gaylord would push the ball down field again and ultimately make it into the endzone for another 7, making it 15-7.

Orono would receive and on this drive the White Hawks would convert a set of downs but not much more and would be forced to punt. Their punt would start the Hawks at the 5. Despite being pushed so far back, they would work their way to midfield with completions to Von Bank and rushes by Albert. This time they could not make it to the endzone and

would be forced to punt. With 44 seconds to go, Orono would first run a reverse and then throw a deep pass to the endzone, in effect ending the half at 15-14 Orono.

The second half would start off with Orono receiving, but the Hawks forced and then recovered a fumble in the opening minute of the half. Tyler Von Bank would run and then receive a pass and scramble to the endzone making it 21-15 White Hawks.

And 21-15 is where the score would remain until the final seconds of the game. Both the White Hawks defense and the Spartan defense would pick off the others and ultimately keep the others away from the endzone. With less than 20 seconds to play, a final "Hail Mary" well-defended, one-handed grab by Orono sealed the fate of the White Hawks and their postseason plans. The final score was 22-21 in favor of the Spartans.

Senior captain Joe Zachow reflected on the game and the season, saying "Our team and our coaches planned and prepared hard to get here. It wasn't our night but it doesn't take away the great season we had." A senior parent stated, "What a special group of boys and families. It was a tremendous season watching our boys shine bright out on the field. I am so grateful for the memories and relationships they have built as those will be everlasting."

Coach Nick David said after the game, "We knew this was going to be a coin-flip type of game in which it could go either in our favor or theirs. Football is a unique game where you can play extremely well on 95% of the plays, but if you play poorly just a couple of times it can really hurt you. Orono gained almost half of their yards on offense on only four plays, as well as two of their scores. If we play more sound in the last 25 seconds of each half we are the team mov-

ing on to the Section Championship, but unfortunately we didn't execute. With that, I couldn't be more proud of our boys and my coaching staff. They worked extremely hard all season and got better each and every day. I cannot say enough great things about our seniors or thank them enough for their contributions these past four years. They will truly be missed."

The White Hawks finished the 2021 season with an 8-1 overall record. Their eight wins ties the most wins recorded in a single season in school history (1975, 1979, 2015, 2016, 2017, & 2021). Orono will move on to play at the #3 seed Princeton Tigers on Friday, November 5th for the Section 6AAAA Championship.

The White Hawks will celebrate the 2021 football season at the end-of-year banquet on Sunday, November 21st.

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**CITY OF ORONO
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 261 THIRD SERIES
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
REGULATING SIGNS**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ORONO ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Sec. 78-1469 Definitions shall be amended by adding and deleting text to read as follows:

Grand opening means commencement of operation of a new business. For purposes of the ordinance, a grand opening is considered to occur if there is a new business, a business name change or change in type of business or activity.

Incidental sign means any sign that is generally not understandable or readable from property other than where the sign is located, such as from adjacent property or a public street, as determined by the city administrator or their designee. Signs may include onsite wayfinding signs, gas pump signs, and menu boards.

Monument sign means a freestanding sign with its sign face mounted installed on the ground with the sign copy or mounted on a base and at least as wide as the sign and is less than 16 feet in height.

Portable sign means a temporary sign whose principal supporting structure is intended, by design and construction, to be used by resting upon the ground for support and may be easily moved or relocated for reuse. Portable signs include, but are not limited to, A-frame or T-frame signs, sandwich signs, signs mounted on a trailer, bench, wheeled carrier, or other non-motorized mobile structure with or without wheels, with or without copy and graphic that is designed or intended to be moved or transported but not including banner signs. Examples of portable signs include, but are not limited to: A-frame or T-frame signs, sandwich signs; signs designed to be transported by trailer or on wheels; and signs mounted on a vehicle for advertising purposes, except signs identifying a business when the vehicle is being used in the normal day-to-day operation of that business. A sign may be a portable sign even if it has wheels removed, was designed without wheels, or is attached to the ground, a structure, or other sign.

Public Sign Regulatory or Directional Signs means a traffic control sign in Minnesota State Statutes; any identification sign installed on public property in a public park by a public authority; and any other identification, regulatory, or warning sign approved by the city council for installation on public or private land.

Sign area means the area in square feet of the single smallest rectangle, circle, or triangle that contains the sign copy.

SECTION 2. Sec. 78-1475 Exempt signs shall be amended by adding or deleting text to read as follows:
Sec. 78-1475. Exempt signs.

All signs shall require an approved sign permit prior to placement except for the signs specifically noted in this section. Exempted signs shall not reduce the permitted signage for a property. These exemptions shall not relieve the owner of the sign from the responsibility of its maintenance and its compliance with the provisions of this division or any other law or ordinance regulation the same.

(1) Government Regulatory or Directional signs. All government Regulatory or Directional signs, including but not limited to traffic control and other regulatory purpose signs, street signs, identification signs, informational signs, danger signs, and railroad crossing signs.

(2) Non-commercial signs in an election year. Signs of any size containing non-commercial speech may be posted in any number beginning 46 days before the state primary in a state general election year until ten days following the general election and 13 weeks prior to any special election until ten days following the special election provided that the signs are in compliance with Minnesota Statutes.

(3) Address signs. Address identification signs not exceeding four square feet in area for each structure or portion of a structure with an assigned address. Street identification numbers are required in all sign districts and should be clearly visible from the street.

(4) Exempt residential signs. Properties in sign district 1 shall be allowed up to eight square feet of signage provided that a single sign is no larger than six square feet, the signs are not illuminated, and freestanding signs are at least five feet from any property line.

(5) Portable signs. Portable A-frame, T-frame, sandwich, or other similar signs that do not exceed six square feet in size, are not illuminated, are located within 15 feet of the primary entrance to a building, and are displayed only during the hours of business operation. No more than two of these signs shall be in place at any given time.

(6) Incidental signs. Incidental signs or signs within a building provided the sign is not readily visible from the public right-of-way and adjacent properties.

(7) Window signs. Window signs that are inside of a building shall not require a permit but shall be in accordance with section 78-1478, Table 1.

(8) Non-commercial signs. Any sign display or device allowed under this section may contain any otherwise lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit, or to a commodity service for sale, and that complies with the size, height, and lighting requirements of this division.

(9) Change of copy. No permit shall be required to change the text of a sign provided the sign structure and face is not otherwise enlarged, modified, enhanced or altered in any way.

SECTION 3. Sec. 78-1476 Prohibited signs shall be amended by adding and deleting text to read as follows:
The following signs shall be prohibited in all sign districts:

(1) Signs with moving, swinging, revolving, or rotating parts.

(2) Freestanding pole signs.

(3) Roof signs.

(4) Projecting signs.

(5) Noncompliant signs. Any sign not constructed, wired, assembled, attached, or supported in conformance with applicable building or other codes and regulations.

(6) Signs in the right-of-way. Signs in the public right-of-way except as provided for, by Minnesota Statutes, or allowed by the agency regulating the right-of-way.

(7) Signs attached to public utility poles, trees, street signs, stoplights, or fences.

(8) Permanent outdoor Outdoor advertising signs, including billboards.

(9) Portable signs. Portable signs shall be prohibited, except for portable A-frame, T-frame, sandwich, or other similar signs that do not exceed six square feet in size.

(10) Signs in the clear vision area.

(11) Signs imitating traffic control signs. Signs that are designed to resemble official traffic signs except signs which are used to control traffic on private property.

(12) Any sign, sign type, sign lighting, or sign technology not specifically listed as permitted in this division shall be prohibited.

SECTION 4. Sec. 78-1477 Regulation by sign district shall be amended by adding text to read as follows:

For the purpose of regulating signs, the following sign districts are adopted:

District	Description
1	All residential properties zoned R-1A, R-1B, LR-1A, LR-1B, LR-1C, LR-1C-1, RR-1A, RR-1B, RR-1B-1, RS, PRD, RPUD
2	M-6, All nonresidential uses located in a residential district <u>including, but not limited to schools, places of worship, neighborhood identification features.</u>
3	B-1, B-2, B-4, B-5, B-6
4	B-3
5	I, PID

SECTION 5. Sec. 78-1478 Permitted sign type, area, height, and illumination by sign district shall be amended by adding text to read as follows:

All signs shall conform to the applicable standards in Table 1: Sign Standards by Sign District. The following provisions shall also apply:

(1) Wall Sign. Wall signs shall not extend more than 18 inches from the wall they are attached to.

(2) Monument Signs.

a. No more than one monument sign shall be permitted on any site except in cases where properties front more than one public street. For properties that front more than one public street, one additional monument sign may be permitted provided that the additional monument sign does not exceed half the size of the maximum sign area allowed for a monument sign in the underlying district.

b. The sign area of a monument sign shall only be calculated using one side of the sign. If the two sides are different sizes, the larger side shall be used for determining sign area.

c. Monument signs shall be located at least five feet from any property line and shall not project over the property line. Clear vision shall be maintained from all streets and driveways.

d. The total area of a monument sign shall not exceed 1.5 times the permitted sign copy area of a monument sign. The total sign area includes all sign copy, graphics, and structure.

(3) Service Area Canopy. Each edge of a The street facing edge or face of a service area canopy is permitted up to 50 sq ft of sign area in addition to all other sign areas permitted on site. Such street facing edge or face of a service area canopy service area canopy facing a street is permitted 25 square feet of sign area in addition

to all other sign area permitted on site. Such signage as well as areas underneath the canopy may be illuminated externally, internally, or backlit, but no other part of the face of the canopy shall be illuminated.

(4) Awnings and Canopies. No part of an awning or sun canopy shall be less than eight feet or greater than 12 feet above grade. Any sign area on the awning, if illuminated, will be deducted from the permitted sign area. The fabric or material used for the awning or canopy must be opaque and no internal illumination is permitted.

(5) Adult Use Signs. In addition to this division, all adult use oriented signs shall comply with the sign requirements in the Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance.

Table 1: Sign Standards by Sign District

Sign Type	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Total Sign area on a parcel shall be in proportion to the lot frontage on a street, described by the ratio: 1 foot of street frontage to X feet of sign area, unless otherwise noted	1:1	1:1	1:1	1:2.5	5% of building façade
WALL					
Maximum sign copy area — single sign	6 sf	20 sf	60 sf	100 sf	45 sf
Max Height	wall height	wall height	wall height	wall height	wall height
Lighting (a)	Not permitted	E/I/B	E/I/B	E/I/B	E/I/B
FREESTANDING					
Type (b)	M	M	M	M	M
Total Maximum sign copy area	6 sf	32 sf	45 60 sf	45 60 sf	25 45 sf
Max Height	8 ft.	8 ft.	12 18 ft.	20 ft.	8 10 ft.
Lighting	Not permitted	E/I/B	E/I/B	E/I/B	E/I/B
GRAPHIC					
Total Maximum sign area	8 sf	20 sf	60 sf	60 sf	45 sf
Max Height	wall height	wall height	wall height	wall height	wall height
Lighting	Not permitted	E/I/B	E/I/B	E/I/B	E/I/B
WINDOW					
Maximum coverage area	Not permitted	Not permitted	35% of window area, not to exceed 5% of building façade	35% of window area, not to exceed 5% of building façade	35% of window area, not to exceed 5% of building façade
AUXILIARY					
Maximum sign copy area per sign	8 sf	8 sf	8 sf	8 sf	8 sf
Wall Height	Not permitted	4 ft.	6 ft.	6 ft.	8 ft.
Freestanding Height	4 ft.	4 ft.	6 ft.	6 ft.	8 ft.
(a) E = external, I = internal, B = backlit (b) M = monument, P = pole (c) Single pole support only.					

SECTION 6. Sec. 78-1479 Changeable message sign shall be amended by adding text to read as follows:

No more than 35 percent of the actual sign area of a permitted sign in a non-residential district shall be capable of displaying changing messages. The remainder of the sign area shall not have the capability to change messages even if not used.

a. Dynamic display that depicts time, temperature, or fuel prices only shall not be calculated as changeable copy for the purposes of determining the 35% limit.

SECTION 7. Sec. 78-1481 Temporary on-premise signs, subparagraphs (5) and (6) shall be amended by adding text and deleting text to read as follows:

(5) Sale, Rent, or Lease or vacant space.

a. Lots, Buildings or parcels Parcels for sale, rent, or lease, or those with space for sale or lease may obtain a temporary sign permit for one temporary wall or monument freestanding sign per street frontage that does not expire until seven days after the parcel is leased or sold. A wall sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in size and shall be used in place of a permanent wall sign. A freestanding sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in size. All other provisions in this section 78-1481 shall apply.

b. Space Buildings with space for sale, rent or lease may obtain a temporary sign that does not expire until the space is leased or sold, provided that the sign is not illuminated or greater than 32 square feet in size.

(6) Residential, commercial, industrial developments. For the purpose of selling or promoting a residential project, including its architect, engineer, developer, financier, or contractor of six three or more dwelling units one sign not to exceed 48 square feet; a commercial area three acres or more, or an industrial area of ten acres or more, one sign not to exceed 96 48 feet of advertising surface may be erected upon the project site. Such sign shall not remain after 90 percent of the project is developed. One sign per street frontage may be permitted.

SECTION 8. Sec. 78-1483 Maintenance and repair shall be amended by adding text and striking to read as follows:

All signs shall be kept in good repair and free from peeling paint, rust, damaged or rotted support, framework or other material, broken or missing faces or missing letters. Any structure from which a sign has been moved or removed shall be repaired with materials and/or painted or stained to match the existing background.

(1) Sign permit not required. Activities not requiring a sign or building permit considered normal maintenance and repair and not requiring a sign or building permit shall include activities such as replacing or repairing lamps, ballasts, transformers, trim, sign fasteners, nuts, or washers; painting the pole or base of freestanding signs; and painting the cabinet of freestanding signs or building signs.

(2) Sign permit required. For any sign that required a permit, the following activities shall not be considered normal maintenance and repair and a permit shall be required:

a. Removing the sign for the repair of the cabinet or any part thereof.

b. Changes made to a sign's size or illumination, including, but not limited to, height, width, weight, area, adding or removing illumination.

c. Changes in poles, structural supports, bases or shrouds, footings, or anchor bolts, moving the sign to a new location, or replacement of the interior or exterior cabinet frame, except the sign face.

(3) Building permit. A building permit may be required for any signs involving the construction of or changes to a sign structure and/or electrical connections as determined by the building official.

SECTION 9. Sec. 78-1373 Gas stations, subparagraph (8) shall be amended by adding and deleting text to read as follows:

(8) Signs. Each motor fuel station may have one pedestal-type sign not in excess of 48 square feet nor more than 22 feet in height, erected within any yard; except that no part of the sign shall be less than six feet from a property line. No part of the sign surface shall be less than 16 feet vertical distance from the grade of the nearest driveway or parking areas. Signs shall be as regulated in the Orono Sign Code.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication.

ADOPTED this 14th day of June, 2021 on a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays by the City Council of Orono, Minnesota.

ATTEST: Anna Carlson,
City Clerk
Dennis Walsh,
Mayor

Published in the
Laker Pioneer
November 6, 2021
1179052

Legals

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278 MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2021

Present: Bob Tunheim, Mike Bash, Kristine Flesher, Laura Walander, Ali Howe, Sarah Borchers, Martha Van de Ven

Absent: None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, October 11, 2021 and called to order by Board Chair, Bob Tunheim, at 7:00 PM.

3. – Community Members Questions and Comments

Board Chair Bob Tunheim shared a statement in advance of this portion of the meeting. Following Mr. Tunheim's statement, several community members and Orono students addressed the board about a variety of topics.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

5. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Mike Bash, seconded by Martha Van de Ven the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

-Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held September 27, 2021

-Approved the appointment of Clare Liedtke, as full-time Floating Hybrid Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective September 29, 2021

-Approved the appointment of Chad Augeson, as full-time Floating Hybrid Teacher at Orono Middle School and Orono High School, effective October 4, 2021

-Approved the appointment of Courtney Olson, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Middle School, effective October 7, 2021

-Approved the change of assignment of Katie Gram, full-time School Age Childcare Coordinator at Orono Public Schools, to full-time School Age Care and Enrichment Coordinator at Orono Public Schools, effective July 15, 2021

-Approved the resignation of Nichollette Andree, full-time Lead Toddler Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective October 8, 2021

-Approved the Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination

-Approved **Bill Vouchers:** 311380-311474, 1471-1475, **EP Register:** 901263-901269, **EFT Vouchers:** 203, 6295-6298 and **Capitol One:** 51450-51479

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

8. – Old Business

8. A – Presale Report for 2021A Bonds

Interim Director of Business Services, Jim Westrum, shared with the board a Presale Report associated with the previously approved resolution granting the sale of bonds.

8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business 9. A – Policy Review

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Director of Learning and Accountability and Dr. Scott Alger, Director of Human Resources presented to the board the following revised policies for a first reading and review.

- Policy 409: Family and Medical Leave
- Policy 411: Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse
- Policy 412: Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults
- Policy 511: Bullying Prohibition

9. B – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Walander, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Bob Tunheim, Chair
Martha Van de Ven, Clerk

Published in the
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November 6, 2021
1179097

CITY OF MINNETRISTA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Minnetrista Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the following land use item on **Monday, November 22, 2021** starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Minnetrista City Hall.

- **REZONING:** The City of Minnetrista will consider a draft of Ordinance No. 468, an ordinance rezoning several properties for compliance with the Minnetrista 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Nickolas Olson
City Planner

All persons wishing to be heard on the above item should submit written comments prior to the meeting or to attend the meeting and will be given an opportunity to be heard

regarding this matter. Materials regarding the land use item will be made available for review as needed. Please contact City Hall for more information.

Published in the
Laker Pioneer
November 6, 2021
1180351

CITY OF MOUND NOTICE OF MOUND PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO REGUIDE PROPERTIES AT 5084 AND 5098 THREE POINTS BOULEVARD FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO MIXED-USE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Mound, Minnesota, as part of a special meeting, will meet in the Council Chambers in the Centennial Building, 5341 Maywood Road, Mound, MN, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, on **Tuesday, November 16, 2021**, to hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan to reguide the properties located at 5084 and 5098 Three Points Boulevard from medium density residential to mixed use. The two sites are currently mixed use so the proposed comprehensive plan amendment will reflect the current use that exists today while providing flexibility in the future if redevelopment were to occur. The Planning Commission will also be considering the rezoning of the properties from B-3 Neighborhood Business to MU-C Mixed Use Corridor so the properties' zoning is consistent with the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Information regarding the 2040 comprehensive plan amendment is available for viewing at City Hall during regular office hours or by appointment. All persons appearing at said hearing in reference to the above will be given the opportunity to be heard at this meeting.

By: Sarah Smith,
Community Development Director

Published in the
Laker Pioneer
November 6, 2021
1180382

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF MINNETONKA BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach, Hennepin County, MN will hold a public hearing at City Hall Council Chambers, 2945 Westwood Road, Minnetonka Beach on Monday, November 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to consider variances to the lakeshore and front street setbacks and 30% hardcover limit for a new addition at 3034 Northview Road, PID # 16-117-23-33-200-48.

Written comments are solicited and should be received at City Hall by Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Call City Hall at 952-471-8878 to review the proposed variance documents or view the variance documents at: www.ci.minnetonka-beach.mn.us

Jane Burgess
City Clerk

Published in the
Laker Pioneer
November 6, 2021
1180379



JUNIOR CIVIC CLUB CLEANS UP

The Minnetonka Beach Junior Civic club did a fall cleanup service project at Ray Peters Park on Saturday, Oct. 30. They raked leaves, and cleared brush at the park. Donuts and water were provided plus l'm a Villager hats for those that helped with the project. (Submitted Photo)



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0.2	Corner lot zoned for single family, duplex OR townhouse	\$49,500	Watertown
0.19	Corner lot zoned for single family, duplex OR townhouse	\$49,500	Watertown
15	Build your dream home or country estate. Waconia Schools.	\$265,000	Watertown
3.5	Build 1 large home or split into several lots	\$175,000	Watertown

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CITY OF SPRING PARK MINNESOTA
City of Spring Park – Finance Clerk Position
 The City of Spring Park is accepting applications for the position of Finance Clerk. General responsibilities of the position include general accounting, payroll administration, management of accounts payable/receivable, and utility billing processing.
 The ideal candidate will possess a minimum of 2 years post-secondary education in accounting, finance, business administration, public administration, or a closely related field, plus a minimum of 2 years related work experience. Other relevant combinations of education and work experience will be considered.
 The position is full-time with a consistent 40 hour a week schedule. Starting pay range is \$25.00 - \$35.00 an hour depending on qualifications. Competitive benefits package offered.
 A detailed job description and application can be obtained on the City's website at www.ci.spring-park.mn.us. Applications are due by 4:30 pm on Friday, November 19th.

Community Editor
 The News & Times, seeks a full-time editor to cover a variety of activities, including city council, school board meetings, sports and various community events.
 Knowledge of InDesign, Photoshop and page layout design is required. Photography part of the job. This position offers great benefits.

The News & Times is a small town newspaper with a strong commitment to community journalism.

NEWS TIMES SERVING GREATER CARVER COUNTY
APG MEDIA EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Resumes should be mailed to
Jason Schmucker
PO Box 5,
Waconia, MN 55387
Email: patriot.editor@apgecm.com

Sun Patriot Newspapers is an equal opportunity employer. ECM Publishers is a drug-free workplace - pre-employment drug screen required.
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Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.
 The 2x4 Network is a program of the MNA, phone 800-279-2979

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WestRock offers a competitive wage + overtime + shift differential and benefits including paid vacation, health care, pension & 401K! WestRock trains employees for advancement. The average mill worker makes over \$90K per year.



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NATIONWIDE. NONPROFIT. HOUSING AND SERVICE PROVIDER FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AS WELL AS SENIORS AND VETERANS.

PROPERTY CARETAKER

Accessible Space is a national nonprofit provider of accessible, affordable housing for individuals with physical disabilities, seniors and veterans is seeking a full-time **PROPERTY CARETAKER/LIGHT MAINTENANCE** for two of our buildings in Rogers, MN (both buildings are located on 129th Ave. North)

As Property Caretaker your duties will include but are not limited to; minor maintenance, cleaning, apartment turns, work order completion, grounds maintenance, etc.

Must be available to complete general work responsibilities 20 hours per week Monday -through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.The ability to work independently with minimal supervision with at least 18 months related work experience.

*****Option to live on site - Caretaker two bedroom unit available on-site for \$300/month*****

ASI offers, competitive salary with medical/dental insurance, paid time off (PTO), Wellness Rebate, Holiday Pay (if worked), EAP (employee Assistance Program) and more!!

Apply online to www.accessiblespace.org/careers ref job Id 634

PROPERTY CARETAKER

Accessible Space, Inc. is seeking an experienced full-time **PROPERTY CARETAKER** for a 24 unit apartment building located in Stillwater, MN (Curve Crest Blvd).

The property Caretaker will perform minor maintenance, general upkeep, work order completion etc.

Must be available to complete general work responsibilities Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Candidate must be able to work without direct supervision and possess excellent time management skills, professional demeanor along with the ability to communicate in a professional manner. At least 18 months related work experience preferred.

ASI offers, competitive salary with medical/dental insurance, paid time off (PTO), Wellness Rebate, Holiday Pay (if worked), EAP (employee Assistance Program) and more!!

Apply online to www.accessiblespace.org/careers ref job ID 574

1180453

SERVICE COORDINATOR

Accessible Space, Inc. a national nonprofit provider of housing is seeking a part-time **SERVICE COORDINATOR** for residents living in our 21 unit apartment building in Rogers, MN (129th Avenue).

Candidate will serve as a liaison between residents and the community resources and services. Will also develop and deliver programs and services related to physical, social, and mental well-being to assist residents in maintaining the highest level of independence and self-sufficiency. Develop and maintain a directory of community resources in order to provide information and referral services to all residents.

Candidate must have Bachelor's Degree in related field or equivalent combination of experience and education. Experience in social services delivery with seniors and/or individuals with disabilities.

Demonstrated working knowledge of supportive services and community resources appropriate to the resident population with ability to advocate, organize, prioritize, problem-solve, and achieve appropriate outcomes for the resident population.

ASI is pleased to offer a competitive wage with part-time benefit package which includes, PTO (Paid Time off), Education Reimbursement, Wellness Rebate, EAP and more!

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Requirements

- Degree in Human Resources or related field
- 3 years minimum working experience in a similar role within a structured corporate environment
- Effective Communication, Interpersonal & Organizational Skills
- In-depth knowledge of labor law and HR best practices
- Competence to build and effectively manage interpersonal relationships at all levels of the company
- Knowledge of HR systems and databases
- Demonstrable experience with human resources metrics
- Experience with recruiting & the recruitment process

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or apply at 3901 85th Ave N, Brooklyn Park

Divine House, Inc.



Human Service Technician

Human Service Technician to work as direct support personnel of our adult foster care homes in the cities of Buffalo, Chaska and Watertown. A Human Service Technician (HST) must possess basic problem solving skills, have a strong desire to help others, and the desire to improve the quality of life of the individuals they are working with. An HST is responsible for following/ implementing an individual's plans and assist in activities of daily needs. An HST must have the ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing within the house as well as within the company departments and document in the necessary records. HSTs must also perform daily duties and responsibilities as assigned, such as but not limited to: housekeeping duties, household errands, appointments, shopping, and leisure activities. Each house can vary in the needs of each individual served. **Starting pay of \$13.00.**



Apply online at www.divinehouse.org or Divine House Inc.
328 5th St. SW Willmar, MN 56201 (320) 231-2738

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